March 24, 2005

S 1091. CLEAN WATER ACT OF 2005. *TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS RELATING TO WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS, WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS, AND WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER REUSE PROJECTS; TO MAKE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN WATER REVOLVING LOAN AND GRANT ACT INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: EXPAND BOTH THE PROJECTS AND APPLICANTS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE LOANS AND GRANTS FROM THE REVOLVING LOAN AND GRANT FUND, ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO SET LOWER INTEREST RATES AND EXTEND REPAYMENT TERMS TO THIRTY YEARS OF THE EXPECTED LIFE OF A PROJECT, TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED PRIORITY SYSTEM THAT WILL ADDRESS BOTH POINT AND NONPOINT SOURCE WASTEWATER PROJECTS AND TO MAKE OTHER CLARIFYING, TECHNICAL, AND CONFORMING CHANGES; TO CLARIFY THAT STORMWATER PLANNING PROJECTS AND WATER SUPPLY PLANNING PROJECTS ARE PURPOSES THAT MAY BE FUNDED BY THE CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND; AND TO ESTABLISH THE RURAL CENTER WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FUND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND TO BE USED TO AWARD LOANS AND GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, PUBLIC SYSTEMS, AND PRIVATE NONPROFIT SYSTEMS FOR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, AND STORMWATER PROJECTS.* Amends GS 105-228.30 to double the land transfer tax effective July 1, 2005, and remit the additional revenues to the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan and Grant Fund (GS Chapter 159G, as amended by act), the Rural Center Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Fund (GS Chapter 159H, created in Section 4 of act), and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Makes changes to the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan and Grant Fund as title indicates and enacts new GS 113A-253(c) to clarify purposes of Clean Water Management Trust Fund as title indicates. Enacts GS Chapter 159H to create the Rural Center Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Fund to be administered by the Rural Economic Development Center. Provides for use of funds credited to fund from land transfer tax as title indicates, sets criteria for awarding loans and grants and priorities for ranking applicants, and requires annual reports to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. Effective July 1, 2005.

Intro. by Kerr.

Ref. to Agriculture GS 105, 113A, 159G, 159H